

Process for Manufacturing Composite Profiles, SN 10/695,177
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In the claims:

Please amend the claims to the following:

1.(currently amended) A process for making a composite profile, including at least one core piece and one insert piece, each having a top surface and a bottom surface, and a length extending from a first end to a and an opposite second end, and each having substantially the same profile from its first end to its second end, wherein said core piece defines a first channel sized to receive said insert piece, said channel extending lengthwise from said first end to said second end, comprising the steps of:

providing a crush rib between the bottom surface of the insert piece and the channel; and

pressing said insert piece into said first channel to deform the crush rib until the top surfaces of the insert and the core are aligned.

2.(currently amended) A process for making a composite profile as ~~recited in claim 1,~~ including at least one core piece and one insert piece, each having a top surface and a bottom surface, and a first end and an opposite second end, wherein said core piece defines a first channel sized to receive said insert piece, comprising the steps of:

providing a crush rib between the bottom surface of the insert piece and the channel;

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pressing said insert piece into said first channel to deform the crush rib
until the top surfaces of the insert and the core are aligned, thereby forming a
core and insert assembly; and coating the assembled
passing the core and insert assembly through an extrusion die to apply
with a polymeric coating.

3.(currently amended) A process for making a composite profile as
recited in claim 2, wherein said coating is a thermoplastic ~~and is applied by~~
~~passing said assembled core and insert through an extrusion die.~~

4.(original) A process for making a composite profile as recited in claim
2, and further comprising the step of providing a wider gap between the insert
and the core near the top than further into the core and applying coating into that
wider gap.

5.(Original) A process for making a composite profile as recited in claim
4, wherein said wider gap is formed by providing a recessed shoulder on said
insert.

6.(Original) A process for making a composite profile as recited in claim
4, wherein said wider gap is formed by making the channel wider at the top edge
than at the bottom.

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7.(original) A process for making a composite profile as recited in claim 2, wherein said insert piece further defines at least one side surface, and said side surface defines at least one recessed shoulder, forming a gap between said core piece and said insert piece above said recessed shoulder, and wherein said gap is filled with said coating.

8.(original) A process for making a composite profile as recited in claim 2, wherein said channel of said core piece defines at least one leg extending from said bottom surface to said top surface of said core piece, and said leg widens adjacent said top surface of said core piece to define a gap between said leg of said core piece and said insert piece, and wherein said gap is filled with said coating.

9.(Original) A process for making a composite profile as recited in claim 1, wherein said channel defines at least one leg, and said insert piece defines at least one side surface, and further comprising the step of applying adhesive to at least one of said leg and said side surface prior to pressing said insert piece and said core piece together.

10. (currently amended) A process for making a composite profile as ~~recited in claim 9, including at least one core piece and one insert piece, each~~ having a top surface and a bottom surface, and a first end and an opposite

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second end, wherein said core piece defines a first channel sized to receive said insert piece, comprising the steps of:

_____ providing a crush rib between the bottom surface of the insert piece and the channel;

_____ pressing the insert piece into said first channel to deform the crush rib until the top surfaces of the insert and the core are aligned;

_____ wherein said channel defines at least one leg, and said insert piece defines at least one side surface, and

_____ applying adhesive to at least one of said leg and said side surface prior to pressing said insert piece and said core piece together;

_____ wherein said bottom surface of said core piece defines at least one shallow pocket to act as a repository for any extra adhesive applied.

11. (currently amended) A process for making a composite profile as ~~recited in claim 9~~, including at least one core piece and one insert piece, each having a top surface and a bottom surface, and a first end and an opposite second end, wherein said core piece defines a first channel sized to receive said insert piece, comprising the steps of:

_____ providing a crush rib between the bottom surface of the insert piece and the channel;

_____ pressing the insert piece into said first channel to deform the crush rib until the top surfaces of the insert and the core are aligned;

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wherein said channel defines at least one leg, and said insert piece
defines at least one side surface, and
applying adhesive to at least one of said leg and said side surface prior to
pressing said insert piece and said core piece together;

and further comprising the step of applying adhesive along an opposite
second end of said core piece so as to counter uneven expansion due to
moisture absorption by said core piece from said adhesive.

12. (Original) A process for making a composite profile as recited in claim
11, and further comprising the steps of:

providing a second channel along said opposite second end of said core
piece; and

inserting a second insert piece into said second channel.

13. (Original) A process for making a composite profile as recited in claim
12, wherein said second channel defines a second bottom surface, and said
second bottom surface defines at least one shallow pocket to act as a repository
for any extra adhesive applied.

Claims 14-22 (cancelled)